

MINUTES

Eugene Human Rights Commission
Sloat Room—99 West 10th Avenue
Eugene, Oregon

January 15, 2013
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Toni Gyatso, Chair, Ken Neubeck, Vice Chair; Iva Boslough, Linda Hamilton, Chris Nunes, Andrew Thomson, Richie Weinman, commissioners; Michael Kinnison, Lindsey Foltz, Lorna Flormoe, City Manager's Office Staff

ABSENT: Lorraine Kerwood commissioner.

The mission of the Human Rights Commission is to promote implementation of universal human rights, values, and principles in all City of Eugene programs and throughout the wider community.

To carry out this mission the commission shall affirm, encourage, and initiate programs and services within the City of Eugene and in the wider community designed to place priority upon protecting, respecting, and fulfilling the full range of universal human rights as enumerated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. To support and promote human rights, the commission will: provide human rights education, be proactive in human rights efforts, address human rights violations, ensure active public participation, be transparent and open, and be publicly accountable for human rights progress.

1. **Welcome from Chair – meeting commenced at 5:35**
2. **Staff Update: Mike Kinnison, Neighborhood Services Manager, interim Equity and Human Rights Manager**

Staffing changes: EHRC now includes the Public Service Officer, Karina Fon, who is a point of contact for the community, general inquiries come through that office, Francisca Leyva Johnson is also joining the Equity and Human Rights team
3. **Working Agreement Reading #6:** We will be transparent in our communications uphold public meeting and records laws and do our work in public.
4. **Open for Public Comments**

Michael Karrigan: Eugene Shelter Rights Organizer, CALC

Homeless Committee proposal comments, support proposed changes to proposal, Richie came to CALC and listened to concerns voiced in that meeting, and was responsive. Thanks to Richie for listening. We want to make sure that homeless populations are included in the group. There is incredible organizing being done by the unhoused. We really need them on this committee to have the committee reflect their good work.

Ally Valkerie

Comments are on homeless committee, wants it to be a commission, disappointed that it is not, nine member committee with no homeless representation, element of experience that will be lacking without their voice. I recommend 12 members, currently homeless person, a parent with a child experiencing homeless, a formerly homeless person, we can make recommendations for great possible participants. The scope of work was too vague, wants the committee to happen, not what I want it to be but with the participation with homeless could be better.

Jean Stacey

Thrilled that HRC is looking at a commission or committee, unhoused people need to be represented, wants to move toward commission versus committee. Divide recommendation number 2 into “prevent homelessness” and sort out the issue of “protecting rights”. Tickets are very expensive and are being issued for sleeping in parks, leaning on buildings, standing next to your bed roll, drinking from a glass bottle, etc. Eric Tars volunteered to do a free job and has not been taken up on it. Thrilled you are taking it seriously, thank you Richie for coming to the meeting and hearing from us.

Comment Submitted without Testimony

Walker T. Ryan

wtryan@gmail.com

Concerned about the need to fast track houseless issues for humanitarian reasons

5. Agenda

Richie moves to approve as is, Denise seconds, unanimous

6. Homelessness Committee Recommendations

Linda Hamilton

Motion: 11 member committee including representation from at least 2 people who are or have experienced being unhoused.

Richie Weinman

Second

Discussion

No limiting language, don't make limits of minimums or maximums for representation, being currently unhoused and previous experience both seem valuable

Motion stands:

Vote: unanimous yes

Meeting Frequency

Ken proposes biweekly meetings for the first 120 days and then at least nine times a year after that once per month while council is in session.

Richie second

Vote: Unanimous yes

Other Impacts: Human Rights Commission to discontinue Homelessness Work Group in favor of representation on collaboration with this committee.

Ken recommends that this item be pulled off the recommendations, and make the homelessness work group part of broader discussion during work planning of all the work groups

Richie is open to the idea but could go either way, seconds

Chris thinks that the work group should step back once the other group is up and running

Denise understands that once the commission is going there should be no duplication of work

Friendly amendment, let the group get up and running and then disband to make sure there is no duplication of work

Iva, capacity issues to keep all the bodies running and that its there to give the group the blessing of the HRC and let them go and let the HRC move on to other issues that aren't being worked on

Vote: Unanimous yes

Richie: move to approve with amendments, Chris Nunes seconds

Vote: Unanimous, yes

7. Washington Jefferson Park skate park presentation
Neil Bjorkland and Emily Proudfoot (City Staff)

Want to make the park safe and fun and effective for everyone, there are a constellation of issues putting a new use in that park.

Because it is covered and lit it will provide a year round recreation opportunity

1990 study also recommended Washington/Jefferson for a covered skate park

2006 petitions from skate community to locate in Washington/Jefferson

Public outreach conducted with help from consultant Dreamland

2010 safety strategy developed, not about keeping people from sleeping in the park, about criminal behavior

2013 in the middle of the 6 month fundraising campaign Eugene Parks Foundation, Eugene Downtown Rotary, LCHAY,

2013 summer construction, 2013 fall opening

ODOT owns the land and is enthusiastic, COE leases it from the State and is looking to establish new lease

Economic benefits

Safety improvements

Different skill levels of skaters

Public Safety Strategy came out of partner concern, included broad participation from differing view points

Park watch is a new EPD program, doing specifically targeted loops around parks where there tends to be high levels of criminal activity, this park will be added to that circuit

Sight lines were designed to improve safety, restroom improvements, access for emergency vehicles

Programming classes and events to keep activity level high

Volunteers is parks system, working towards developing neighborhood participation, graffiti abatement, picking up litter, etc. Lots of eyes on the park, keeping it positive.

Attracting vendors for food and skateboard equipment.

Outreach within 6-8 weeks a newsletter or postcard will be mailed out in Spanish and English to all residents and property owners in the area about what is happening in the skatepark with links and contact numbers. Include FAQ's etc.

Neil pulling together a staff group to talk about social issues and create a path forward for those concerns. In particular connecting with the Crossfire group so that service provision of meals is not interrupted. Temporary restrooms are also being considered during the construction phase.

Ken concerned about the illegal activities that are basic life sustaining activities and the differentiation. If the skate park is successful in changing the activities etc. where is this activity likely to shift?

Neil: some of the dynamics are understood, cover, proximity to river, connecting to 6th and 7th corridor, convenience store proximity. Differing opinions have been expressed, some will stay put, the first place is that they will move more toward the river corridor. The park system is going to be dealing with these issues regardless of this. It used to be that there were only a few parks affected by threatening activities, most parks now are affected.

The lay of the land has changed, less jail beds, less treatment, until these gaps are filled these issues will show up in the park.

Iva concerned about the term "unsavory element" they might be our friends, sisters, I would suggest that you would take that language out of the presentation.

Neil responded that "threatening criminal behavior" was the intent, not the unhoused, etc.

8. Commissioner Updates

Ken: IHRD went really well, about 125 people attend, good comments, 4 youth awards went out, thanks to staff

Chris: video was great, thanks to team that created the video and participants

Andrew: send link of video to him, at the Accessibility Advisory Group meeting, discussed disaster preparedness, particularly for vulnerable populations. Anyone who has ideas for strategies to help vulnerable populations during disasters can send recommendations to staff or Andrew to pass along

Iva: First Thursday of each month at noon, International Day of Peace Planning going on, encourage participation, thanks to those who participated

Linda: Diversity in the Workplace, Pioneer Pacific College presentation, they were really engaging, and another presentation at St. Peters their church was

talking about missions, they want to be more aware about racism, treat other people like you want to be treated. Police Commission has a big discussion coming up on Policy Screening Committee policy around asking for social security cards.

Denise: thanks for being patient while I recover

Richie: spoke to the HIV alliance today, spoke about the Human Rights Commission

Toni: gave out staff awards on December 10 at Public Works, which is a different venue than in the past. Videos shown. HRC IHRD was great with LCNII. Felt that the full commission support for events is really important to support each other.

9. Martin Luther King Jr. Award:

Toni motion that we will not accept the late ballots, Chris seconded, unanimously passed

Iva, is there only one award? I think there are both young people and adult who should be recognized. I think in the future we should consider doing both. Is it possible to do two?

Linda, considerations for time for acceptance speeches, etc.

Flag for future, consider youth award.

Emilio Hernandez, Carla Gary, Tom Ball chosen for award:

10. Chair Nominations, Liaison Assignments

Vice Chair: nominations Andrew Thomson, Linda Hamilton (declined)

Chair: nominations Toni

We affirm that Toni Gyatso will serve as our chair and Andrew Thomson will serve as our vice chair.

Liaison Assignments:

Accessibility Advisory Committee: Andrew Thomson

Police Commission: Linda Hamilton, Toni willing to be backup

Civilian Review Board: Denise Greiwisch

CDBG: Chris is primary Ken is backup

EHRB: Iva and Richie